

## REPORT TO GENERAL SESSION OF EPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

PRESENTERS: Gladys B. Hubbard and Susan Dziuk, co-presidents EPA UMW

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

2019 will be the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day when eight women met to organize for mission focused on the needs of women and children. One hundred and fifty years later the total program of United Methodist Women is still mission. Service, advocacy and learning opportunities equip members to continue the work today. The Legacy Fund, a permanent endowment fund, will help to strengthen and pass on this mission focus to future UMW members. Anyone is welcome to make a gift to the Legacy Fund. More information is available at the UMW table in the display area.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century women still need to organize for mission. In this past year:

- Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Women not only met, but exceeded, a Pledge to Mission of \$150,000. The 800,000 members of United Methodist Women know there is no mission without dollars. The Pledge to supports 98 National Misison Institutions in the United States and mission and ministries all over the world.
- Permanent Trust Fund and Investment Committee and Ingathering, two programs unique to Eastern Pennsylvania, provided dollars and needed items here in our conference.
- We don't have to tell you of the wonderful mission and outreach work your unit does in your community. If your church does not have a unit, you are missing out on the enthusiasm and contribution of women dedicated to putting faith, hope and love into action for women, children and youth.

In the last year, four articles highlighting ministry in Eastern Pennsylvania Conference were printed in *response* magazine, the magazine of women in mission, produced by United Methodist Women. The social activism of New Vision on North Broad Street in Philadelphia and the camping ministry of Midtown Parish are supported by grants from the Permanent Trust Funds and Investment Committee of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Women. Articles by Kathy Parks of Salem UMW in Allentown and Connie Kurtiz of Bensalem UMW reported ministries of their units. We applaud the national recognition that Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has received.

Our purpose calls us to expand our concepts of mission. We not only meet immediate needs, but we work on long-term social justice issues. UMW members attended Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC where they lobbied senators and representatives on issues of racism, materialism and militarism. UMW members participated in a vigil at the Berks County Center where undocumented immigrant women with young children are detained. Our Charter for Racial Justice Committee is active and engaged in helping us implement the Charter.

One last thing: Brochures for Mission u are available at the UMW table in the display area. Mission u will be held at the Inn at Reading July 21-22. The registration deadline is June 20 so you still have time to register. Courses available are Covenantal Community, Climate Justice and the Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church. CEUs are available for clergy. Mission u courses may also count as Christ Servant Minister credit.